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For our Context Statement, my partner and I chose a high school. I attended Waterford High School for all four years of my high school experience. Unlike many other students my age, I loved high school. I was lucky enough to go to a school that emphasized the importance of being a well rounded individual. Whether you were good at sports, academia, or the arts, there was a place for you at Waterford.  I took classes that challenged me to my limit, taught by teachers that were good enough to make me enjoy them. I had a great experience at my high school and because of this when people ask what type of school I would like to teach in, I will always respond with, “Hopefully somewhere like Waterford.”

When my class entered Waterford High School on the first day of our freshmen year, we were greeted by chipped paint, cracked windows, muggy classrooms, and doors that were locked with chains. This image is similar to school that Jonathan Kozol describes in *Savage Inequalities*, except for one thing, we could see our future. Right outside the L Wing, you could look through the windows and see a brand new school being built from the ground up. This school was to be among the most modern and advanced schools in Connecticut. It promised state of the art technology, interactive classrooms, and maybe most importantly, central air. We only spent a year and a half in the old school and instead of being disheartened by its condition, we were nostalgic. The school had seen many great things and many extraordinary people passed through. I am lucky that I got to spent two and a half years in the new school because it was a great place to learn.

While the fact that we had a beautiful school was nice, my experience at Waterford would have been absolutely nothing without the amazing teachers. Every department was packed with competent teachers that just simply wanted to teach. While it is hard to choose my favorite teachers from high school, the one that made the biggest impact on my life was my sophomore history teacher, Mr. Cheney. He is the reason why I love history so much now. But he did not only teach history, he taught curiosity. When we would finish a lesson early, we would spend the rest of class talking about current events, federal policy, or really anything that we found interesting. He would rarely offer his own views, forcing us to have an opinion and think for ourselves. So yes, he is the reason I want to be a history teacher, but more importantly, he is the reason I want to be a teacher.

Even though Mr. Cheney was the most important teacher I had at Waterford, he was not an oddity. In *Savage Inequalities*, Kozol describes schools that have one competent teacher in its entire staff. Waterford was the opposite, my sophomore Spanish teacher was the only teacher I had at Waterford that truly did not care about her students. The rest of my teachers were engaging and wonderful. Most of my teachers set the bar very high and through a little help most of their students could reach.

I am very fortunate to have gone to a school that is run by people that truly care about the student's education. Waterford stressed the importance of each and every department. The arts department was as important to the administration as the football team and the music department was as important as the math department. I was inspired by my teachers to not only be the best student I could be, but also the best person I could be. When I think of myself as a teacher, I hope that I will have as big of an impact on my students as my teachers have had on me.